(d) the measures proposed to be taken by the Government to safeguard the common man from serious infections and diseases caused by the failure of the public health system?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) and (b) Diseases like Cholera and Malaria may be attributed to environmental factors such as excessive rain, water logging etc. as well as to sanitation problems in some areas.

(c) There is no scheme for providing compensation to Disease victims.

(d) A National Apical Advisory Committee has been constituted under the Chairmanship of Union Health Secretary to formulate a nation-wide disease surveillance network. The action points envisaged under the disease surveillance scheme are collection and flow of information, strengthening of laboratory diagnostic services, networking of centres and continuous monitoring of disease prevalence.

[Translation]

Dental Colleges

1427. SHRI RADHA MOHAN SINGH : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision to provide prescribed monthly stipend to students doing internship in dental colleges, as per the directions issued by the Dental Council of India or the Union Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether private dental colleges are also providing the said stipend as per the above provisions;

(d) if not, whether any action has been taken or being taken against such erring colleges;

(e) whether any complaints have been received that receipts for payments are taken from students without giving them the above stipend; and

(f) if so, the remedial measures being taken by the Government to stop the malpractice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) to (d) As per BDS course Regulations 1983 every candidate passing the final BDS examination is required to undergo one year paid rotating internship in dental college. These regulations are applicable to the students of private dental colleges also.

(e) and (f) As per the records available in the Dental Council of India, there are no such complaints.

[English]

Diplomatic Mission at Karachi

1428. SHRI P.R. DASMUNSI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to reopen the diplomatic mission at Karachi after the new elected Government took office in Islamabad; and

(b) if so, the efforts made to negotiate the matter further?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) The Consulate General of India, Karachi was closed down on 4.1.1995 in response to the demand of Government of Pakistan. Government of India have urged Pakistan to reconsider its decision. Our efforts in this direction will continue.

Missile Capability

1429. DR. KRUPASINDHU BHOI : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the missile capability of its neighbours;

(b) whether any assessment have been made by the Government in this regard;

(c) if so, the details thereof particularly in respect of Pakistan and China; and

(d) the steps taken by the Government to match with the missile capability of neighbouring countries?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI MULAYAM SINGH YADAV) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (d) All developments having a bearing on national security are constantly assessed and monitored. Necessary measures are taken from time to time to maintain appropriate defence preparedness so as to thwart any misadventure by an adversary. The Guided Missile Development Programme ensures that state-of-the-art missile technology would be available to India.

Crash of AN-32 Aircraft

1430. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether an AN-32 Aeroplane of Indian Air Force had flied from Moscow to Jam Nagar Aerodrome *via* Dubai and Muskat on March 25, 1986;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether after one or two hour of air travel from Muskat the plane was misplaced;

(d) if so, the details thereof and whether all the crew members had died; and

(e) if so, the details of misplacing or the air-crash of AN-32 aeroplane?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (e) The AN-32 flight No.K-2729 originated from Kiev and landed at Dubai. The aircraft took off from Dubai for Jamnagar on 25th March, 1986. The details of the crew of aircraft are as under :-

(1) Wg Cdr UM Bheemaiah (9011) F(P)

(2) Wg Cdr EA Fernandez (9751) F (P)

(3) Wg Cdr AL Narula (7852) AE(M)

(4) Flt Lt BP Sharma (16093) F (N)

(5) JWO KS Yadav (28864) Flt Sig

(6) Cpl RS Mishra (650555) Elect Fit

(7) Cpl KV Singh (636024) Rdo Fit

The aircraft could not be traced as it did not land at Jamnagar. The reasons for the loss of aircraft could not be established. The aircraft and crew were declared missing.

Sea Erosion in Kerala

1431. SHRI N.K. PREMCHANDRAN : Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government are aware of the fact that the coast of Kerala is subjected to severe sea erosion during monsoon seasons every year;

(b) whether a project for construction and maintenance of seawalls in Kerala has been pending with the Union Government for sanction, if so, when the same is likely to be cleared;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from Kerala regarding anti sea erosion;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reaction of the Government thereto; and

(e) the other steps proposed to be taken by the Government to protect the sea shore of Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) to (e) Investigations, design, construction and maintenance of coastal erosion protection works is the responsibility of the State Government. Central Loan Assistance provided to Government of Kerala upto March 92 was of the order of Rs. 52 crore, towards implementation of anti sea erosion works. This assistance given since Fourth Five Year Plan, was discontinued beyond 91-92 as a process of decentralization as per decision taken by the National Development Council. Such assistance has enabled Government of Kerala to provide protection in the length of 324.61 Km of coastline, besides repairs in a length of about 50 Km.

During the year 1995-96, State Government had requested for an additional Central assistance of Rs. 5.98 crore out of which the Planning Commision had sanctioned Rs. 3 crore. During the year 1996-97, the state Government again requested for an additional Central assistance of Rs. 22.55 crore for anti sea erosion works, river protection and desilting works. But the State Government was requested to meet this requirement from Non Plan funds of the state, being essentially for maintenance purposes. Government of Kerala have also submitted proposals in 1996 costing Rs. 346.5 crore for inclusion in the National Coastal Protection Project under preparation in the Central Water Commission.

Ship Building Yards

1432. SHRI UTTAMSINGH PAWAR : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that in the absense of any concrete policy on supporting the beleaguered ship building industry many of its yards are facing imminent closure;

(b) whether the Government have received any demand from that industry in this regard; and

(c) if so, the details therof and the action taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) Many countries the world over have been supporting the Shipbuilding industry with incentives such as subsidy, tax concessions, etc. In order to have level playing field, Indian shipbuilding industry requires support especially for construction of ocean-going ships.

(b) and (c) The shipbuilding industry has requested for extension of subsidy scheme which lapsed in September, 1995 and also to include subsidy for export orders. Their request has been processed and inter-Ministerial consultations are underway.

Haj Pilgrimage

1433. SHRI SULTAN SALAHUDDIN OWAISI : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Saudi Arabia has agreed to increase the Haj quota;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have taken up the matter with Saudi Arabia with a view to provide excellent facilities to Haj pilgrims; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) and (b) Under the present arrangements, worked out in consultation with the Saudi Government, about 100,000 pilgrims from India can perform Haj every year.